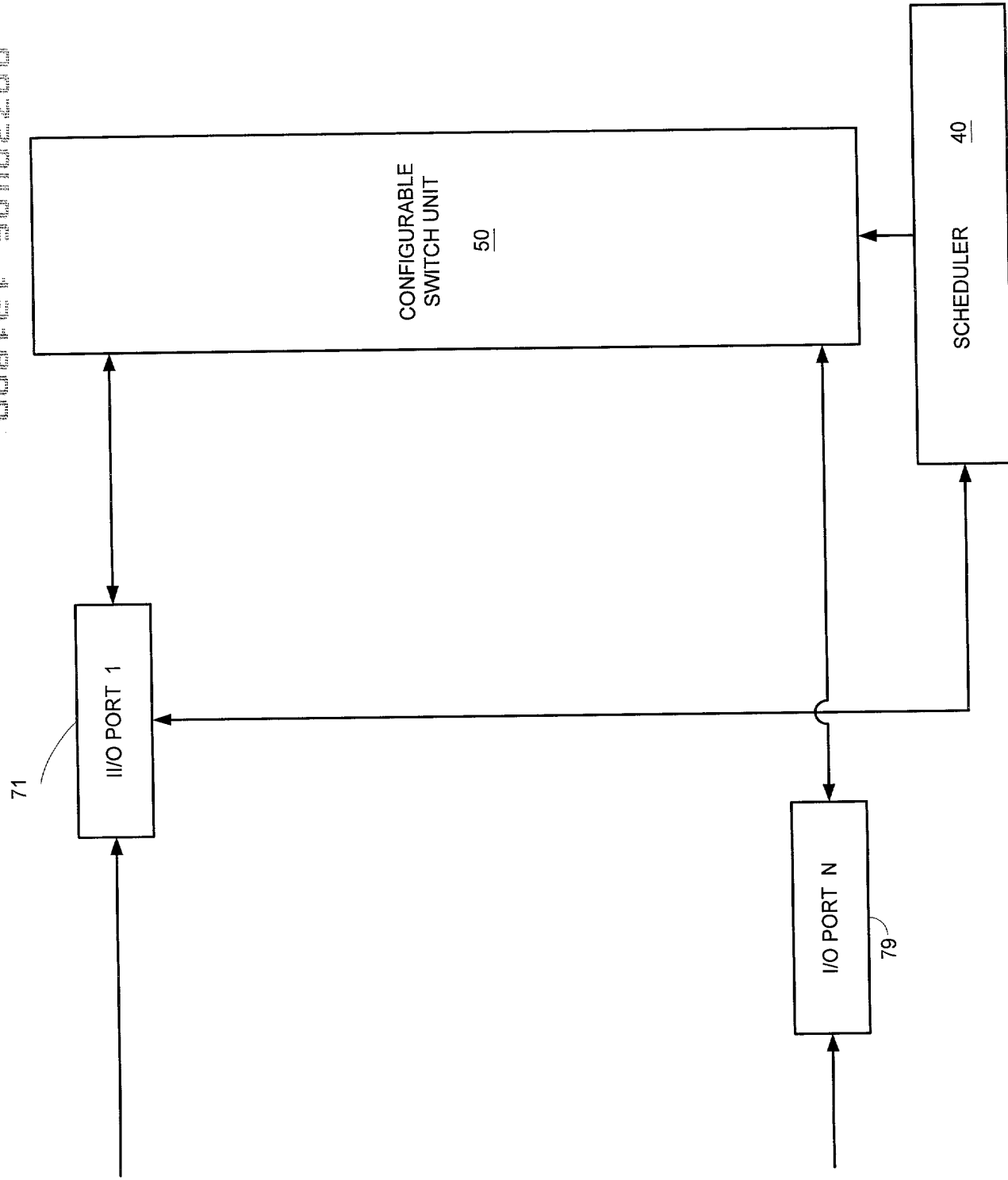


FIG. 1



9'

FIG. 2

CHECKING, AT EACH TIME SLOT, FORWARDING REQUESTS TO FORWARD VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS FROM SOURCE PORTS TO DESTINATION PORTS OF THE MULTIPORT SWITCH, IGNORING FORWARDING REQUESTS FROM SOURCE PORTS AND DESTINATION PORTS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED TO FORWARD AND RECEIVE ACCORDINGLY AT LEAST PORTIONS OF VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT 111

SELECTING SELECTED FORWARDING REQUESTS OUT OF THE CHECKED FORWARDING REQUESTS
112

CONFIGURING THE MULTIPORT SWITCH FOR ALLOWING TO SERVICE THE SELECTED FORWARDING REQUESTS DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT
113

110

FIG. 3

PERIODICALLY CHECKING CONNECTION REQUESTS, EACH
CONNECTION REQUEST REQUESTING TO COUPLE A DESTINATION
PORT TO A SOURCE PORT FOR FORWARDING A VARIABLE LENGTH
PACKET FROM THE SOURCE PORT TO THE DESTINATION PORT,
IGNORING CONNECTION REQUESTS FROM SOURCE PORTS AND
DESTINATION PORTS THAT ARE COUPLED DURING THE CURRENT TIME
SLOT FOR FORWARDING VARIABLE LENGTH PACKETS THAT ARE
SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE DURING THE NEXT TIME SLOT

121



PROCESSING THE CHECKED CONNECTION REQUESTS TO DETERMINE
THE CONNECTIVITY OF THE CROSSBAR SWITCH DURING THE NEXT TIME

SLOT

122

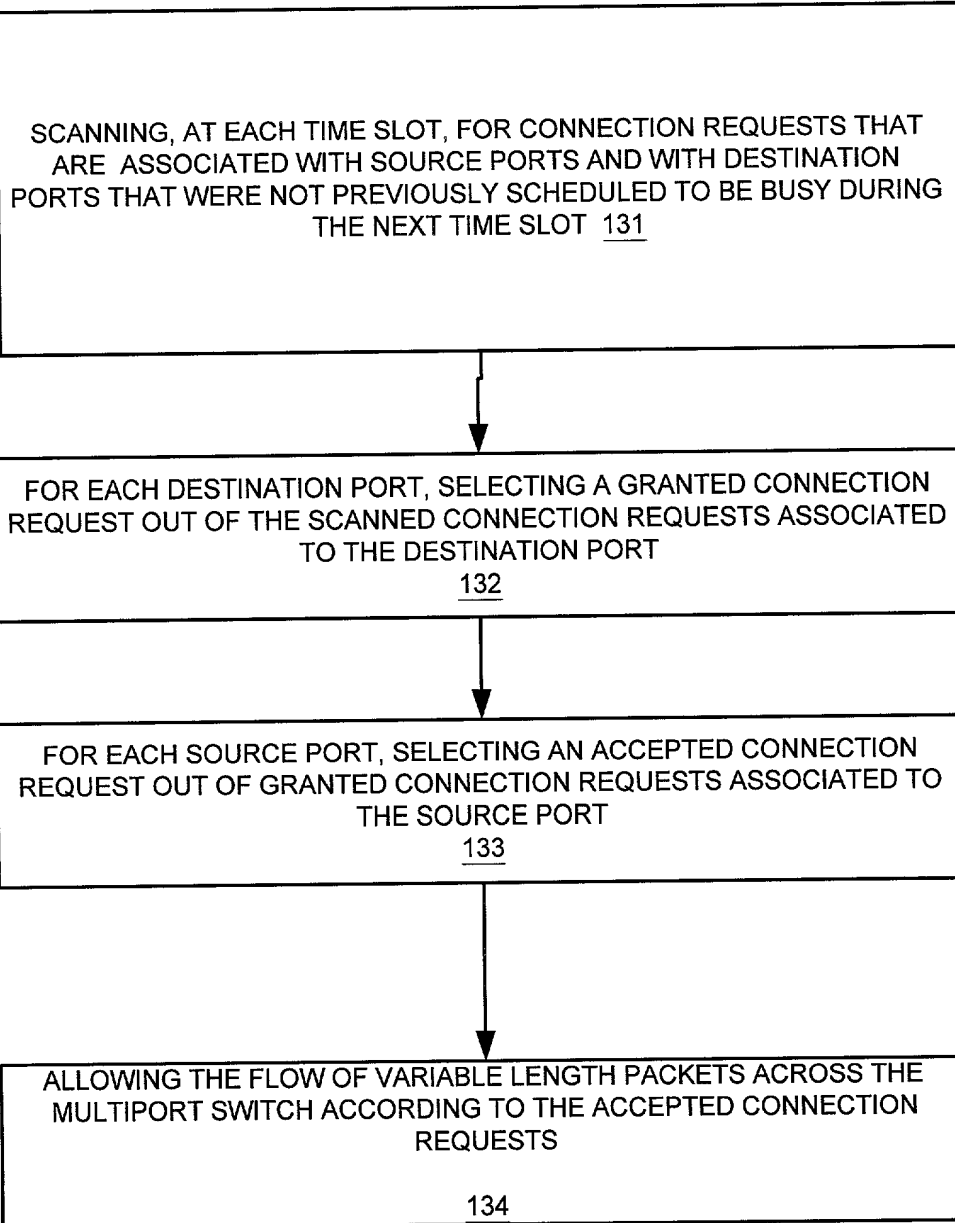


PROVIDING CONTROL SIGNALS TO THE CROSSBAR SWITCH IN VIEW OF
THE DETERMINATION

123

120

FIG. 4



130

FIG. 5

003727" 9616E260

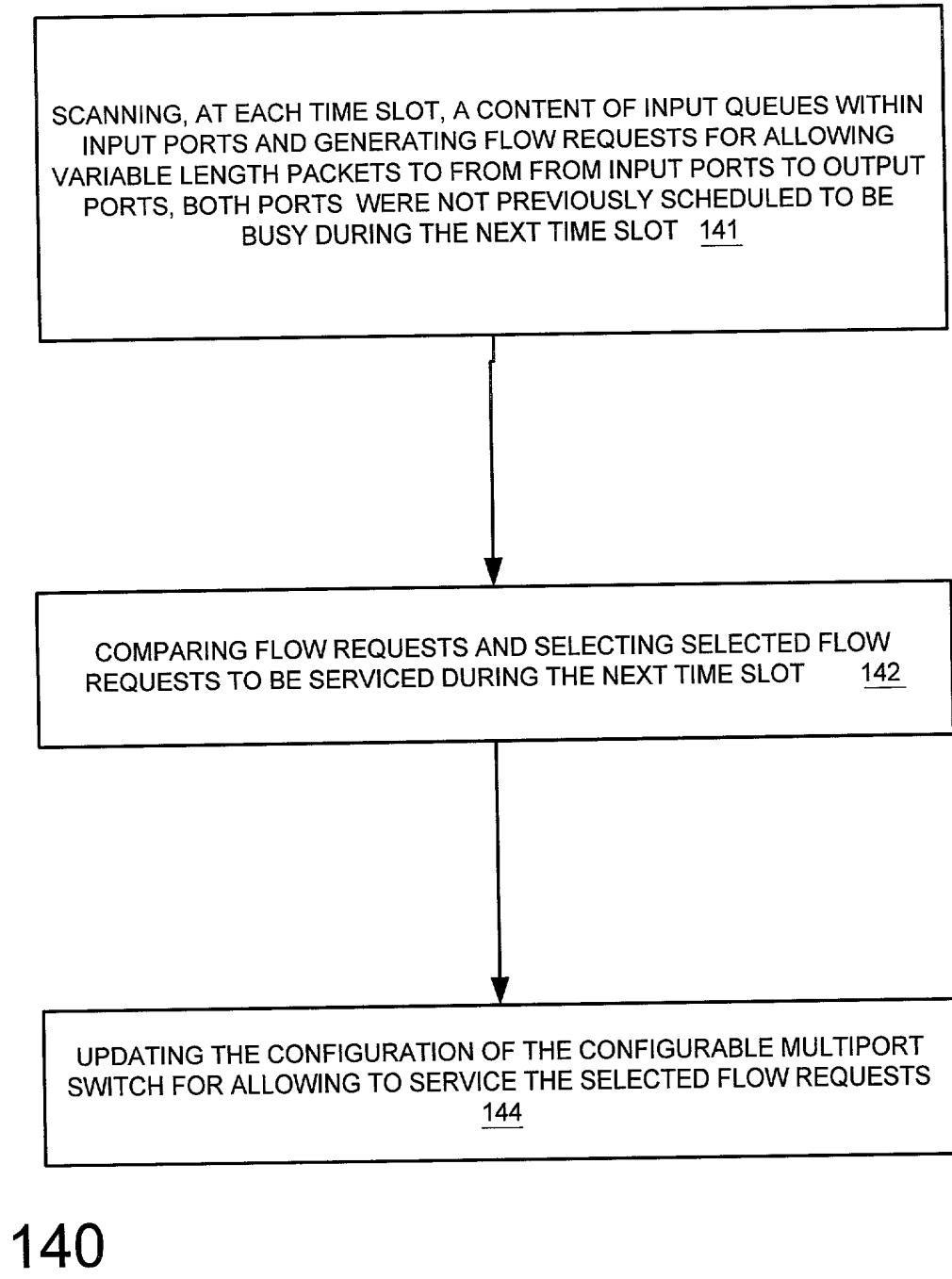


FIG. 6